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Contents

FEATURES

24 BASEBALL '96: DOES ANYBODY STILL CARE?
We survived the non–World Series season, and we suffered through the strike/lock-out-shortened season. Which brings us to the question at hand: Does anyone still care about baseball? In this, our sixth annual baseball issue, DONNELL ALEXANDER defends all aspects of the national pastime — in particular, the Cleveland Indians' anti-hero Albert Belle. Rejecting baseball is RICHARD MELTZER, who explains why he walked away from the sport long ago. Plus, DAVID DAVIS reviews the George Brace photo collection and previews the Dodgers '96 campaign while CHRIS BENNETT checks out those girls of summer from L.A.'s Women's Baseball Association. Play ball!

NEWS

13 CITY LIMITS
How patronage beat out conciliation at the Board of Supes last week.
BY MARC B. HAEFELE

BREAKING RANKS ON HIV
Opposition to HIV tests has always united gay activists, but now L.A.'s AIDS Healthcare Foundation is endorsing routine tests.
DOUGLAS SADOWNICK reports on the change.

L.A. RIVER DONNYBROOK
Talks over how to save the L.A. River have foundered. GLORIA OHLAND reviews the wreckage, and looks into the restoration movement flourishing across the nation.

PLUS: EDMUND NEWTON on a life in science; BENJAMIN ADAIR on South-Central's battle of the billboards; and HOPE URBAN corners Caltrans in San Diego.

ARTS

35 FILM
Primal Fear looks like a TV show but acts like a movie; *The Last Supper* serves up cynicism with its murder.
BY MANOHLA DARGIS

37 TV
ARION BERGER finds *Moesha* charming, *The Show* insulting.

39 BOOKS
Murder, not mystery: An unsentimental assessment of the limits of authenticity, Swedish-style, in Kerstin Ekman's *Blackwater*
BY JOHN PAYNE

40 ART
Ugly is? Muck and gunk on canvas dominate the San Francisco School of Abstract Expressionism.
BY ROBBIE CONAL

John Biggers' paintings bring his humanistic vision of history to the California Afro-American Museum.
BY ERIN J. AUBRY

45 THEATER
OyamO's *I Am a Man* is a nuanced view of the human costs of the labor movement.
BY STEVEN MIKULAN

47 MUSIC
In memoriam: JONNY WHITESIDE recalls the ragged grace of the Gun Club's Jeffrey Lee Pierce, 1958–1996.

In *Eventually*, GINA ARNOLD sees a retreat from Paul Westerberg's familiar barroom bravado.

DEPARTMENTS

6 LETTERS

11 FIRST PERSON
Scientists still know little about what causes twinning. But PAMELA SPIRO WAGNER knows a lot about being a twin.

50 CLOSE TO THE MACHINE
Studies of the very small: JUDITH LEWIS explores nanotechnology.

51 RESTAURANTS
Rice, rice, very nice
BY MEREDITH BRODY

140 MERL REAGLE'S CROSSWORD, COMICS

141 ASTROLOGY
BY ROCKIE GARDINER

170 MEXILED
BY LALO LOPEZ

CALENDAR

57 GOOD TIMES
59 FILM
72 Neighborhood Movie Guide
80 THEATER
87 DANCE

VARIETY
87 Cabarets
88 Coffeehouses
MUSIC
91 Music Reviews
93 Alan Rich
94 Rock & Pop Clubs
108 Country & Folk Clubs

110 Blues Clubs
115 Scoring the Clubs
119 Concerts
123 Dance Clubs
125 African, Rhythm & Reggae Clubs
126 Latin, Brazilian & Spanish Clubs

126 Jazz Clubs
128 Classical & Experimental
128 COMEDY
129 MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS
131 ART GALLERIES
133 READINGS

134 EVENTS
134 KID STUFF
134 LEARNING
134 INTERNET
135 POLITICS
135 OUTREACH
135 TV PICKS
136 RADIO PICKS

ADVERTISING

51 TRAVEL & ADVENTURE
54 BULLETIN BOARD
142 CLASSIFIED

ON THE COVER: Photo of Raymond "Rip" Radcliff Jr. from *The Game That Was: The George Brace Photo Collection* (Contemporary Books)

LA WEEKLY

BASEBALL STUFF BY KATHLEEN CLARK

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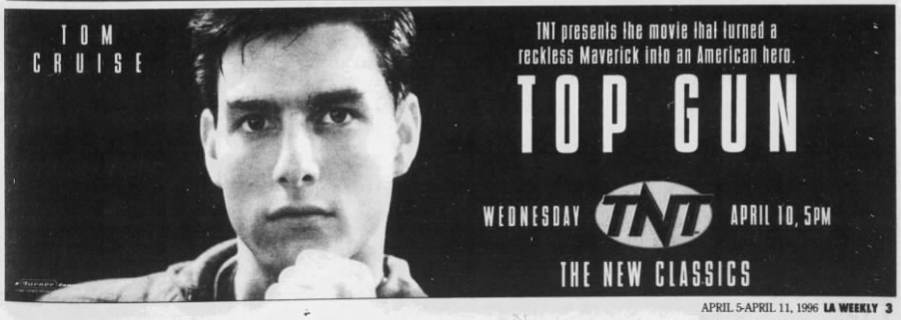

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